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rising. The following chapters are filled with endless quotations from a few Russian papers and documents, without much interpretation; they make an impression of great haste in the work; too much in them remains unexplained and undigested. The Korniloff affair is treated adequately and so is the history of the Moscow Conference and of the Pre-Parliament. The last chapters are devoted to the Bolshevik *coup*, and give a fair outline of the collapse of the Kerensky government and of the fate of the Constituent Assembly. The author condemns the Bolsheviks especially for their dissolution of the Constituent Assembly; he hopes for the establishment in the future of a Russian Democracy. On the whole, this volume of Professor Ross is too superficial to become a serious contribution to the study of the Russian Revolution.

S. A. KORFF.

The Crisis in Russia. By ARTHUR RANSOME. New York, B. W. Huebsch, 1921, 201 pp.

The little volume of A. Ransome contains a most valuable story of an eye-witness of the Russian Revolution, first, because of his knowledge of the Russian Socialists and revolutionaries, and, second, on account of his sincere admiration of the Revolution. From the very beginning Ransome was an ardent supporter of the Bolshevik party and was with them for many months. Then, too, it is his second book on Bolshevik Russia; his first one was published in 1919 and was an unlimited exaltation and praise of the Soviet government and of the Bolshevik ideals and achievements. A little over a year later, Ransome once more visits Russia and once more gives his readers a sincere account of what he has seen there; only this time the picture is ghastly and terrifying to the utmost; it is probably even more instructive in this respect than the interesting recent volume of Bertrand Russell. Both of these authors were admirers of Bolshevism, both have seen with their own eyes Bolshevism in practice and both come at present to the same conclusion, namely, that the system has worked havoc and destruction instead of establishing, as they had hoped for, a social millenium.

Ransome became now thoroughly pessimistic; there lurks back of his story the distinct conviction that there is bound to come sooner or later a great change in Russia, that will sweep away Bolshevism, giving vent to the constantly growing disillusionment of the Russian people.

The author describes in a remarkably candid way the inside working of the Bolshevik government; he tells his readers frankly that Russia is ruled by a tiny minority, though very compact, energetic and absolutely ruthless (chapter III). The figures he quotes are corroborated by many other witnesses; so are the appalling facts he cites concerning the "shortage of things and men" (chapter I-II) and the breakdown of transportation (chapter I), which so effectively undermine the Bolshevik rule. Ransome confirms too the well known fact that the Soviet Constitution is at present in abeyance and that the Executive Committee hardly ever meets, the governmental power being concentrated in the hands of very few individuals.

Around this infinitesimal group there grew up a tremendous Bureaucratic fringe; "I do not think," says the author, "it is realised outside Russia how large a proportion of the educated classes have become civil servants of one kind or another;" he does not mention however, that this Bureaucracy in no way accepts Bolshevism; on the contrary, there exist many proofs that this class is absolutely hostile to their masters, ready to leave them at the first opportunity. Ransome is quite wrong when he asserts that "practically the whole intelligence of the country helps the Communists" (p. 157); recent events prove exactly the opposite.

The chapters concerning the Trade-Unions, the Propaganda Trains and Saturdaying give us interesting accounts of Bolshevik activities; the story about "Non-partyism" is inadequate; much has changed already since Ransome wrote it last year. But the most significant shortcoming of Ransome's narrative is his lack of appreciation of the Peasant-opposition to Bolshevism, that is bound to ruin the latter.

Ransome concludes his volume (chapter XII on "Possibilities") in the same way H. G. Wells does his, by expressing the conviction that the Bolshevik Government, deficient as it is, is the only possible one for Russia. Just the same thing was repeatedly said ten years ago and with the same fanatical emphasis by the supporters and admirers of the tsar about the autocratic régime of those days. Ransome's facts however point in the exactly opposite direction, namely, to the gradual and inevitable degeneration and decay of the Bolshevik Government.

S. A. KORFF.